MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI: May I know from the honourable member how many male students and how many female students are there?

MR. H. C. PAPWORTH: I have not got the figures by sexes.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI: May I know the names of these Cheramar students?

MR. H. C. PAPWORTH: I den't know their names?

Muslim female and male students in the University College.

272 *MR. P. S. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased:

(*a*) to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Muslim female and male students in the following classes of the University College:

(i) the intermediate class (Junior);
(ii) the Senior Intermediate class;
(iii) B. A. Classes;
(iv) B. Sc. Classes;

(*b*) to lay on the table a statement of the number of male students who applied for admission in the following classes in the University College in the years 1119 and 1120 separately and the number among them who secured admission in those classes in those years:

(i) Junior Intermediate class;
(ii) Senior Intermediate class;
(iii) Junior B. A. class;
(iv) B. Sc. class

(*c*) to state the number of Muslim female students who applied for admission;

(i) in the Junior Intermediate class;
(ii) in the Senior Intermediate class;
(iii) in the B. A. classes;
(iv) in the B. Sc. classes;

in the years 1119 and 1120 separately; and

(*d*) to state the number among the above applicants who secured admission in each of the above classes in the years 1119 and 1120 separately?

MR. H. C. PAPWORTH: A * statement furnishing the information is laid on the table:

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*Vide appendix.

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Appendix

Vide Answer to Question No. 272.

(*a*)

Class.	Number of Muslim students.		Remarks.
	Male.	Female.	
Junior Intermediate	10	Women students are not admitted.	
Senior do.	14	Do.	
Junior B. Sc.	5	2	
Junior B. A.	7	1	
Senior B. Sc.	5	Nil.	
Senior B. A.	2	Nil.	

(*b*)

Class.	Number of Muslim men students.			
	Applied for admission.		Secured admission.	
	1944-45.	1945-46.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Junior Intermediate	37	27	12	10
Senior Intermediate	...	...	...	...
Junior B. Sc.	6	6	3	5
Junior B. A.	6	7	3	6

(*c* & *d*)

Class.	Number of Muslim women students.			
	Applied for admission.		Secured admission.	
	1944-45.	1945-46.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Junior B. Sc.	1	2	Nil.	2
Junior B. A.	Nil.	1	Nil.	1

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MR. K. SUKUMARAN (*Nominated*): I request that I may be permitted to make a statement in answer to the statement made by Mr. Chellappan Pillai the other day.

PRESIDENT: That is in answer to the other.

MR. K. SUKUMARAN: Yes, Sir. Sir, it is my proud privilege to represent the Press in this assembly. The great statesman administrator that you are.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. No personal references are necessary.

MR. K. SUKUMARAN: Sir, I will preface my statement with a few words. The great statesman administrator that you are who holds a high place in the galaxy of the eider statesmen of India, was only too sure to realise the importance of the press and the role it has to play in the present day scheme of things. Therefore it was but natural that you elected to nominate a representative of the press to this Assembly. Sir, whatever others might say, the press as a whole is grateful to you for the step you have taken in that direction. In a country like England we are the makers, remakers and breakers of Government. In Travancore our influence is tremendous. But unfortunately there seems to be an attempt on the floor of this House to cry down the press. The press in Travancore have got arms strong enough to defend themselves under any contingency. I strike a note of warning that any attempt either on the floor of this House or outside, to curtail the freedom of the press or to infringe its privileges will be resisted and resisted to the utmost extent possible. Sir, I now proceed to make my statement regarding the very serious allegation made by an honourable member of this House, that a sub leader, under the caption "Against the Vanchi Poor Fund" which appeared in my paper the Kerala Kaumudi, has made an inroad upon the privileges, honour and dignity of this House and of its individual members, as representing the people of this country, in so far as it is a libel and contains insinuations against the conduct, character and capacity of a member of the House. I have a double role to play in this matter, one as a member of this august house, representing the press and the other as the individual essentially and primarily responsible for the editorial in question. As a member of this Assembly "constituted" as my friend has said "by Royal favour" I am not behind-hand of any other person, in holding that this House should have such privileges as are necessary to maintain its dignity as representing the people's voice. But at the same time it is my stern duty to stand by the privileges or freedom of the press, which is one of the fundamentals of even the Atlantic Charter. As such, though I would welcome the move made by Mr. Chellappan Pillai for collective privileges for the House and for protection of independence and dignity of individual members—which move unfortunately began with a ring of libel against my paper,—I cannot but protest that freedom of the Press is a far more sacred thing than the privileges of individual members constituting this Assembly. But Sir, I need not dilate upon the privileges of the House, and the action which it can

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take on the infringement of the same, for you have already ruled tha t we are not a Court, and the Travancore Reforms Act does not constitute for us a Court and that this House has absolutely no power or jurisdiction when a particular newspaper made an attack on a member of this honourable house. I am sorry that Mr. Chellappan Pillai, in his enthusiasm for maintaining the dignity of the Assembly has for the moment forgotten the freedom of the Press, which is one of the sheet anchors of the Travancore State Congress, of which he is a member. I thank you Sir, for that ruling in the name of the freedom of the Press.

It is a matter of opinion only, at least at this stage, whether the particular article is a libel. But all the same, that article has its own background: Travancore has from the hoary past been the 'Land of Charity' "Charity our Household Divinity" being the motto of the Ruling Family, whose Royal favour, in the words of my friend Mr. Chellappan Pillai, constituted this Popular Assembly. Charity is perhaps the most precious heritage of every Travancorean, and as such my paper had been in the vanguard of those who unstintedly supported the Vanchi Poor Fund. The State Congress or for the matter of that, Mr. Chellappan Pillai according to my light, had unfortunately never taken kindly to this highly humanitarian move for feeding the starving millions of Travancore. Nay, Mr. Chellappan Pillai went a step further and could not leave alone that generous gentleman Nawab T. S. Rajamanickam Pillai, who made the munificient contribution of half a lakh of rupees to the Vanchi Poor Fund. Not only that, to the Kerala Kaumudi it appeared that this past master of the dramatic art has given a fillip to the regeneration of the Malayalam stage. In the circumstances, the Kerala Kaumudi could not but question the propriety or justifiableness of an interpellation by my friend on the floor of this House, based according to my view on irrelevant and false data or information. The question has well proved, that the questioner has not read the Income Tax Act carefully or had not understood it properly. It was at the most, a mailed fist in silk gloves. I do concede that as such there is an allegation against my friend, when the paper alludes to the well-known saying "Where ignorance is bliss it is folly to be wise". I do not regret the article, so long as Mr. Chellappan Pillai and persons of his ilk would not see their way to give even unto the devil what is his due. But I do regret that Mr. Chellappan Pillai was goaded on to fly at the throat of the Press, in the name of the privilege of this House on sudden, though unjustified provocation at a well-merited exposition of the impropriety of his interpellation. I am not surprised at his offence. In the words of the poet, let sufferance be the badge of all our tribe; and let us 'with malice towards none and charity for all' try to do some real good to the country and not motivate the actions of others.

Well Sir, I cannot but point out in this connection, that you Sir, have also been carried away to a certain extent, by the translation of the article supplied to you. Translation at best have been held to be

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[Mr. K. Sukumaran.]

the nasty process of metamorphosing a horse into an ass—the same genus but unfortunately very often of different species. It is never possible to capture in a translation the subtleties or the various shades of meaning of sentences or passages in the original. In the light of these facts, I assert that the translation is unhappy, especially of the passages, which Mr. Chellappan Pillai has taken objection to. The translation is unhappy; at best it is an attempt at a word-for-word literary translation; at any rate, it is not an idiomatic translation. And well Sir, it is on the strength of this translation that you have analysed the article. I am thankful to you Sir, for having qualified your remarks paranthetically as "treating this as a proper translation" and as "if that is the idea". For example, I would translate the latter portion of the first sentence where the expression "to avenge a family feud" occurs into "to avenge a long standing enmity" for there can be no question or attribution of any family feud between Nawab T. S. Rajamanickam Pillai who hailed from beyond the Ghats into Travancore, only some months back and Mr. K. K. Chellappan Pillai of the Mavelikara—Kunnathur constituency. No blood feud between the two; no family feud, no clan feud: the passage clearly refers to the long standing enmity nourished by Mr. Chellappan Pillai and his confederates towards the Vanchi Poor Fund, to which I have made reference earlier. Again take the passage "the characteristics of a highly vicious person include such intolerance also." That Sir, is the most unkindest cut in the translation മൂഢ in Sanskrit according to Monier Williams and others means, a foolish, silly fellow, and മഹാ മൂഢ a great fool. It never means a highly vicious person. Vicious according to Webster means "adicted to vice or immorality; corrupt in principles or conduct, depraved, wicked etc. മൂഢ does not connote any of these attributes and the great poet Bharthirhari has devoted a full section in his famous book, entitled "മൂഢ പദ്ധതി" for a tirade against fools. And Fool, according to Webster means a person deficient in judgment; one who acts absurdly or stupidly or pursues a course contrary to the dictates of wisdom. As such, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that the Kerala Kaumudi had not, as would appear from the translation, referred to an honourable member of this House as a highly vicious person corrupt in principles or conduct or depraved or wicked. The paper though it alludes to the characteristics of defective judgment, or foolishness according to Webster has never called an honourable member of this House a fool or a great fool. The paper only says that, that one of the characteristics of foolishness is intolerence. I believe Sir, that my statement would expel at least some of the misconceptions created in this House, by the article in question and its translation.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: On a.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Mr. K. A. Mathew wanted to put some question.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Mr. Sukumaran has made a statement. I do not want to go into.....

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PRESIDENT : Order, order. A statement was made and a reply statement has been made. And the matter is finished.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: It has been stated that there is an attempt to carry down the Press on the floor of this House. May I know from the honourable member whether the attempt is individual or collective?

MR. K. SUKUMARAN : Sometimes collective and sometimes individual. That is my honest opinion.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : In so far as...

PRESIDENT : You cannot make another statement.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Since things which ought not to have been referred.....

PRESIDENT : Honourable member can put questions to the other honourable member, but he cannot make a statement.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Is he aware of the latest rulings of the Income-tax law which prohibits...

PRESIDENT: Order, order. That question cannot be discussed here ; it is a matter of law. Mr. Sukumaran might have read the Income-tax law properly or improperly. Mr. Chellappan Pillai may have read it properly. But those questions are not to be discussed on the floor of the house.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : In so far as he referred to the question and referred to my ignorance.....

PRESIDENT : But the honourable member need not now vindicate his knowledge of Income-tax Law.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Anyway he has brought it up. May I know in what way it has been proved that I and my confederates have been against the Vanchi Poor Fund as a charitable institution?

PRESIDENT: How does it arise here? That is his opinion. You gave a certain opinion ; he gave another opinion. That is all and that is finished. The other matters should take place outside this House.

There is no procedure under the rules for people questioning each other's correctness either in matters of law, or in matters of fact or in matters of opinion. It is not possible under the rules to take place here.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Then what is the meaning of his statement?

PRESIDENT : Order, order. Exactly the same meaning as the honourable member's statement. The honourable member was not called upon to make any statement, but he did so. The other honourable member was not equally called upon to make the reply statement, but he also did so. He is entitled to make his reply and he did so. The matter is finished.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : May I know...

PRESIDENT : I have received a telegram which I have been requested to place before the House.

"The statement made by Kadakavur Madhavan in his budget speech in Assembly that almost all the houses at Vakkom are leprosy stricken is a deliberate insult to Vakkom public since it is absolutely unfounded and born of personal hatred and enmity. The public therefore protest strongly the above statement and pray that it may be removed from the report and the speaker asked to withdraw the same President, S. N. D. P. Branch Vakkom, Attingal, Kadakkavur."

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[President.]

I am very sorry to report that the storm which we had traces yesterday, has produced great damage in a certain locality. The District Magistrate, Quilon has reported by telephone at 10:30 A. M. today about an accident in Pandalam. I will read the following phonocom received by him from the Inspector of Police, Chengannur:

> "M. P. G. School building, Kaipuzha, Pandalam gave way to wind and rain and fell down at 4·15 p. m. 15-12-1120, while classes were working. As a result of injuries sustained, eight boys and one Asan died. 15 were removed to Thiruvella hospital and 4 to Chengannur. Local Division Assistant, Stationary Magistrate, Tahsildar, School Inspector, Munsiff, Police Inspector and Medical Officer reached the scene at 6·30 p. m. and rendered all possible assistance."

Rather great pity.

Order, order. I have to announce that Government have decided to constitute, in pursuance of the generally expressed desire of this House, a Committee to deal with the question of privileges of the Travancore Legislature. That Committee will have the Duputy President of the Assembly as the Chairman, four members will be elected by the Assembly-that election will take place along with the other election-two members from the State Council; the Advocate General, the Legal Remembrancer will be members of the Committee and two other members will be nominated from the groups remaining unrepresented as a result of the election.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Are the reflections made by Mr. Madhavan against the people of Vakkom going to be expunged from the report?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. This is so stated here and I got a telegram asking me as President to place it before the House. Generally it is the duty of the President when he receives a communication to place it before the House. I do not attach any importance to it because I do not think that any honourable member of the House would have made such a statement. There must have been some mistake in the report in the papers. It is not possible that any member should say.....

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: I too got communication of that sort.

PRESIDENT: As I said, I decline to believe that any honourable member would have stated that. That is why.....

MR. KADAKKAVOOR P. MADHAVAN (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): I only said that some persons were stricken with leprosy. And it was made as a result of the representations made by the people of that place...

PRESIDENT: It was my duty to place it before the House. If I really attach any importance to it, I would have made further references. I do not think that any honourable member could have said that all people in Vakkom.....

MR. K. A. MATHEW: But a report of the speech has been prepared by the Shorthand Reporters here.

PRESIDENT: But what the gentleman read might have been from some newspapers. He .....

MR. K. A. MATHEW: My friend Mr. Nataraja Pillai has also got a telegram...

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MR. M. K. NILACANTAN : സർ, ഇന്നലത്തെ മഴമൂലം അപകടമുണ്ടായി എന്നു പറയുന്നതല്ല എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലാണ്.

PRESIDENT : Yes, what of that ?

MR. M. K. NILACANTAN : അതു കൊണ്ടു ദുഃഖസൂചകമായി കരുതി ഈ സഭയുടെ നടപടികൾ കുറച്ചു സമയത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കണമെന്നു.

PRESIDENT : Well, I can only say that Government will go into the whole matter. If there are any persons deserving relief, relief will be given to them.

MR. A. K. BHASKER (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*) : Sir, in view of the fact that an accident of serious nature has occurred by the fall of a Primary School and 8 pupils and one asan of that school killed on the spot it is desirable that an investigation should be made by the Director of Public Instruction and to see that all buildings of the schools are inspected and such of those that are found unsafe are demolished immediately. We can even forego education until such time that the schools are accommodated in safe buildings. This is a matter of life and death and I request you to take immediate steps to avert such disaster hereafter.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : May I know whether it is a private school or a Government school ?

MR. A. K. BHASKER : In my opinion schools conducted in dilapidated or unsafe buildings must be closed forthwith. Whether it is a private school or Government school it does not matter. Such kind of occurrences should no longer happen. It should be the aim of Government to take prompt measures to make every school building safe and sound.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Apart from the accident may I know whether it is a private school or Government school ?

PRESIDENT : It is reported to be a private school.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : കൊട്ടാരക്കരക്ക് കിഴക്കുവശത്തുള്ള കുട്ടികളും പടിഞ്ഞാറുള്ള കുട്ടികളും തമ്മിൽ വല്ല വ്യത്യാസവുമുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Now that the plight of the school is fairly known it should be the endeavour of Government to look to the conditions of the existing schools and make them free from dangers.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN : Sir, yesterday I was referring to the proposal of travelling allowance to the Members of the Legislature when they come here to attend committee meetings. I am of opinion that such allowances should not be given because it is part and parcel of the work of the representatives of the people to discharge that work in so far as they have been entrusted with the work of their constituencies. It is part of their legitimate work to carry out in so far as the electorate has been pleased to send them. I would ask the honourable members of this House whether they did not stand for the elections in

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[Mr. E. K. Madhavan.]

the constituencies and whether they are entitled to get travelling allowance for having done that kind of work. I do not know whether when once they are elected they should seek to draw their travelling allowances as well as other allowances. It is a matter for regret that I should say this much.

PRESIDENT: In view of the fact that there is difference of opinion in this matter the views of this House and the other House will be taken before a decision is arrived at.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: It is a matter for regret that I should say that some of the members care more for the travelling allowances rather than the welfare of their constituencies.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know from the Member what evidence is there for making such a serious allegation?

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: I have been hearing from all members of the Legislature from all qarters of the House this matter alone being discussed. The members are discussing only about their remunerative part of the Assembly work. This is the only evidence which I have got. I have not got any written evidence for that. Moreover I should say it is impossible to get a written evidence on this point. It is not possible to place the written evidence on the table of the House or any where else. I do not wish to proceed further in this matter.

Regarding the privileges of this House I would like to bring one matter to the notice of the President. I am of opinion that all members of the Legislature irrespective of party or no party should be given equal preference to speak out their views. That is my general opinion. But I would like to impress on this House that independent members belonging to no party must be given preference to members belonging to parties. Because they will have their independent views to be stressed and the party views can be expressed through its leader or whip or anybody else. Therefore, I would request the President to be more considerate towards the independent members and give them more opportunities to voice their grievances in regard to their constituencies.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Sir, during the course of the debate on this motion several important measures were raised and most of them have been disposed of by the chair. In regard to the residential quarters it has been announced that Government have taken steps for the construction of suitable buildings and that they will be completed as soon as practicable. About the payment of honorarium and other allowances to the Members of the Legislature I am afraid that the matter appears to be still in a controversial stage. The Dewan-President has told the House that Government would be pleased to continue the honorarium which the members are now drawing and make payment in addition by way of travelling allowance to the Members of the Legislature who have to attend the committee meetings. If that proposition is acceptable to the House, I believe, Government will

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implement it. As regards the Committee of privileges, the Dewan-President has already announced the formation of a committee therefor. One other matter was raised and that was about the answering of questions. It was stated on the floor of the House that questions are not being answered in larger numbers. Sir, I must say that we have received in all, over 970 questions of which 271 have been answered till today. It is the intention of Government to answer all of them provided answers are received from the departmental heads in time. I am sure the House do realise that larger number of questions are being answered this time.

PRESIDENT: I should like to have the opinion of the House on the matter of honorarium to the members of the Legislature. There are only two important matters that have ranged in the debate. One relates to the Committee of Privileges and the other relates to the honorarium. The question of privileges has already been decided and the other question remains. Government came to the conclusion some time ago that a certain lump sum might be given to cover the expenditure of the honourable members. It was then represented after the rule was promulgated that on account of the present high rate of transport and other charges and the general increase of prices, it would be expedient and useful if at least for meetings other than the Legislature meetings such as the meetings of the Advisory Board and Select Committees travelling allowance and detention amounts should be paid. Government went into the matter and find that increased expenditure would be about Rs. 10,000 a year. Government are perfectly willing to adopt such steps in this matter as this House and its sister House may decide.

The following question was put to vote:

"Those in favour of the provisional proposal put forward that the members should get in addition to the present honorarium travelling and halting allowances for attending the meetings of the Select Committee and Advisory Boards but not for meetings of the Legislature."

As the proposal has the support of the House, this matter will be placed before the other Chamber and final orders will be passed after their decision.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 97,950 under Demand VI Legislative Bodies was put and carried.

The Demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND VII—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Advocate General*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 15,36,436 under Demand VII—Administration of Justice.

MR. K. A. MAHOMED: Sir, I move

"To reduce the allotment of Rs 4,500 for travelling allowance by Re. 1."

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI: On a point of order, Sir. I am not at all for minimising the importance of the object outlined in the cut motion. But I ask, what has the High Court to do in this specific matter? If the honourable member wants that some space should be given from the premises of the Court house for the Bar Association, I could connect the relevancy of the cut motion.

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